



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



# SKOKIE VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

DISTRICT 20

Membership Newsletter - Volume 26 Issue 6

## Running Lights

# June 2026

Celebrating National Safe Boating Week



United States Power Squadrons is America's Boating Club®



**A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER**

May's General Meeting was the last "formal" meeting until September. Thanks to Ron and Joanne for arranging a great dinner at the Wadsworth Inn. Food was good, and the company was great. I believe this restaurant should be on our revisit list. Thank you to all that brought their life jackets for our group "National Safe Boating Week" picture. It was a little cozy trying to get the picture inside, but check it out in this edition. Thank you Ron Dziagwa for suggesting it. Even though we are done with General Meetings until September; let's keep in touch regarding any events that may be of interest to our membership over the summer.

With Memorial Weekend behind us, let the boating begin!

June 6th Waukegan Squadron is having their annual used equipment sale at Waukegan Harbor. Later that day, we have our Fishing Derby and Sundowner at Winthrop Harbor. Dave Antony has 2 boats scheduled to fish and afterwards we'll be gathering at 5:00 pm in the BBQ area by Q dock for pizza and salad. Remember to bring a chair and beverage of your choice. Then our Fire Master Tony Palazzo will start his famous bonfire to be enjoyed into the night.

There are several other upcoming events already on the calendar. Summerfest in Milwaukee WI runs over 3 weekends, 16-20 June, 25-27 June, and 2-4 July. July 3rd is the beginning of Dan & Chris' Lake Michigan Summer Cruise and there are 4 boats going on that cruise. July 25 is the Milwaukee Air & Water Show, and then August 28 is the Chicago Air & Water show. There are still a few events being planned like the D20 C&R, so look for more information in future editions of the Running Lights.

The Bylaws amendment adopted at the April meeting regarding membership was approved by National on 6 May 2026. Copies of our bylaws (in full) will be posted on the National Website. Thanks to P/D/C Dennis McNamara and the Rules Committee for all your hard work to get this completed.

Our America's Boating Class at REI in Vernon Hills for May 14th had to be cancelled due to not having enough enrolled students. Our SEO Gary Raphael had talked to some individuals regarding the class, but the opportunity to hold the class did not work out.

We will continue to hold our monthly Executive Committee meetings during the summer, so remember to let us know if you are planning an event or trip that others may be able to participate in. Karen can publish details in the Running Lights or post to our Facebook page if there is sufficient time to get the word out. Looking forward to seeing some of you over the summer. Be Safe.



**America's Boating Club North Shore 2026-2027 Bridge**

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—Cdr. Frank D'Amico, AP





# Mark Your Calendar



## June 2026

3	Wed	Executive Committee/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting—below
6	Sat	Waukegan Squadron Used Equipment Sale	Waukegan Harbor—page 4
6	Sat	Fishing Derby & Sundowner	North Point Marina—below
15	Mon	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico, Running Lights Editor
16-20	Tues-Sat	Milwaukee Summerfest	<a href="#">Milwaukee, WI</a>
25-27	Thurs-Sat	Milwaukee Summerfest	<a href="#">Milwaukee, WI</a>

## July 2026

1	Wed	Executive Committee/Bridge Meeting, 1900	Zoom meeting—below
2-4	Thurs-Sat	Milwaukee Summerfest	<a href="#">Milwaukee, WI</a>
3-18	Fri-Sat	Lake Michigan Summer Cruise	Dan & Chris Luczak
15	Wed	Publication Deadline—Running Lights	Karen D'Amico, Running Lights Editor
25-26	Sat-Sun	Milwaukee Air & Water Show	<a href="#">Milwaukee, WI</a>

## Team North Shore

**Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 3 at 7:00 PM Central**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 896 4506 7100, Passcode: 606598**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89645067100?pwd=nSjbaBor5OixpFWvaHTOtoBjyxpA2.1>

**One tap mobile: +13126266799,,89645067100#,,,,\*606598# US (Chicago)**

**North Point Sundowner**  
**Saturday June 6**  
*After the Fishing Derby*



*Bring your own beverages  
and a chair for the bonfire*



**Gather in the outdoor BBQ area by Q dock at 5:00 PM. We will order pizza and salad for everyone present.**

**Later our Fire Master Tony Palazzo will light the bonfire!**

**Contact Dave or Sue with questions  
[dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net](mailto:dave-sue-anthony@comcast.net)**



# WSPS Used Equipment Sale

Saturday, June 6, 2026

## Waukegan Sail & Power Squadron

[wspboating.org](http://wspboating.org)

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons

**Saturday, June 6, 2026, Waukegan Harbor**

**0900-1100 Hours**

Join us at Waukegan Harbor

### The Famous Power Squadron Used Equipment Sale

#### **Back by Popular Demand ©**

Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 9am to 11am on the Waukegan Harbor patio



#### **Selling?**

Cleaning out those nooks and crannies on your boat? Just finishing an upgrade to a new piece of gear and want to unload the old one?

Bring any equipment and supplies you want to sell with set up starting at 0830. Sales are from 0900-1100. Twenty percent [20%] of all sales will be collected by the squadron to support educational activities and delay expenses. Forms for selling to follow.



#### **Buying?**

Looking for bargains for your boat? You've come to the right place!! Everyone knows the used equipment sale is the best bargain in town. Great equipment, great pricing. Hope to see you there!



#### **Vessel Safety Check Sign Up**

Make sure your boat meets federal and state safety requirements. Sign up for a free US Power Squadron Vessel Safety Check at the event.

Hope to see you there!

## Richard J. Calfa

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## Promotional Products, Embroidery, Screenprint and more!

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[christine@kanizzle.com](mailto:christine@kanizzle.com)



# SVPS 2026 Event & Cruising Schedule



When	Event	Location	Host
Saturday June 6th	Lake Michigan Fishing Derby & North Point Sundowner	North Point Marina	Dave & Sue Anthony
June 16-20 <span style="color: red;">June 25-27</span> July 2-4	Summerfest Milwaukee Cruise	McKinley Harbor, Milwaukee WI	McKinley Harbor <span style="color: red;">Reserve Early January</span> 414/273-5224
July 3-18	Lake Michigan Summer Cruise	Sheboygan, Sturgeon Bay, Leland, Charlevoix, Frankfort, Pentwater, Port Washington	Dan & Chris Luczak
July 25-26	Milwaukee Air and Water	McKinley Harbor	Info Only
TBD	D20 Cruise & Rendezvous	TBA	District 20
August (TBD)	Chicago Architecture Tour	Chicago	
August 28-30	Chicago Air & Water Show (featuring Thunderbirds)	Navy Pier Marina or Burnham Harbor	Info Only
September 19th	Dinner Meeting	Southport Marina Boaters Lounge, Kenosha, WI	Ron Zingler
September 23-27	America's Boating Club Fall Governing Board Meeting	Cary NC	National Meeting
October (TBD)	District 20 Fall Conference	TBD	District 20
Sunday, October 25	Dinner Meeting	Beelow's, Lake Zurich	Ron Zingler
Sunday November 8th	Anniversary Dinner	Dover Straits	Ron Zingler
Sunday December 6th	Commanders Holiday Party	Hoffman Estates	Frank D'Amico

## SUMMERFEST

June 18-20 • June 25-27 • July 2-4 • 2026 

Some members are planning to drive or boat up to attend Summerfest in Milwaukee WI on the 2nd weekend of the festival. If you are interested, click the logo above to check out the lineup of entertainment.

Hotels are pretty limited that weekend. If you are traveling by boat, there is a waitlist to get a slip at McKinley Harbor in Milwaukee, which is walking distance to the festival. 414/273-5224

### Squadron Bylaws Approved

At the Change of Watch in April, the membership voted to approve the latest changes to our squadron bylaws. These changes align with the recommended national model bylaws for associate members, and they also allow for future direct to membership initiatives underway at National.

The new version of the bylaws is not yet posted to the National website. Once it is, available copies can be downloaded [here](#).

Many thanks to our Rules Committee chair Dennis McNamara and our committee members Natalie Witty and Ron Dziagwa for their work on all the bylaws changes this year!

# MAY MEMBER MEETING

Jim Soyka, Joanne & Ron Zingler



Dan & Chris Luczak



Sue Anthony & Lenore Stevens



Susan & Tony Palazzo



Joe Paldo & Jim Soyka



Lenore & LeRoy Stevens



Ron Dziagwa



Gary Vinzant



Gail Sidman & Rich Davidson



Karen, Frank, & Agostino D'Amico



Don & Gail Sidman



Karen & Frank D'Amico



Dave & Sue Anthony



Cathy & Gary Raphael, Ron Zingler, Gary Sidman



Frank receives his D20 Cdr Plaque

## It has been a difficult spring... By Stuart Zwang

Cold, wind, frost, etc. When I worked in construction, we used to say that spring did not start until AFTER our April blizzard. This year it was a May blizzard.



It reminds me of the interplay between Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon. How cold is it? When I was refereeing soccer in the fall, one year I had an NCAA soccer playoff just before Thanksgiving. It was so cold that the pea in my whistle froze. That is how cold this spring seems to have been. I can usually wear my short sleeve uniform shirt to referee, but this year I wear my long sleeved shirt with three layers (including a turtle neck) under the shirt.

My wife and son are gardeners. It has been so cold, that every night they bring in the pots of flowers that they want to plant inside the garage. I want my garage space back. My wife has observed that it is so cold that even our grass is not growing. At least our neighbor's grass is not greener (yet). My son has even taken to setting up a greenhouse in the basement. He has so many grow lights that I fear that the Drug Enforcement Administration will raid our basement for growing illegal herbs. Since it is really too cool to boat, my wife has volunteered me to do her gardening. My back is so sore, that at night it takes almost two full cocktails to be able to wobble to bed.



Instead of the usual wager for 'first in the water,' we might reverse it for 'last in the water' this year. The late spring has been an inhibiting factor for putting our boat in the water. Our winter storage / mechanic has had a wonderful cold fall. He told me that not everyone is eager to be 'the first in the water.' He explained that he has benefitted from that by not having his annual April / May rush.

He may also have benefitted from the weather by being able to sell all the deferred maintenance that so many (procrastinating) boaters might be prone to. I replaced my marine radio with one that has a new DSC feature. I also have a new impeller for my motor, fresher oil, and a spiffy freshly detailed boat. There is now a new, more reliable starter key and a better antenna. Why not? I will be ready for my Vessel Safety Check (Thank you Gary Vinzant.) It falls into the four most expensive words in the English Language – *we may as well*. (Also known as *While we're at it*)

This morning, instead of boating and even before I was able to brush my teeth, my neighbor rang our front door bell. You may have a neighbor like this on your dock. He always has a cigarette stub lodged in his mouth where his front tooth is missing. You don't know what color (or if) he has hair because of the ball cap that is always on his head. After 1:00 PM he might be found sitting around with his favorite brewski. Sometimes you might quietly wonder if he has an allergy to soap and water or clean clothes. Every other week, his car or boat 'needs a jump.' He is a good guy, and you kind of feel sorry for him, so you decide to be neighborly by bringing your own jumper cord or NOCO power module to him. His engine starts, but when you disconnect it, it conks out again. Three tries later he is able to put his vehicle in gear and drive out. You wager with your partner as to when (if) he will get back, and how soon he will need another jump. Since it has been too cool to go out, he is important in this cold spring because at least he entertains you.



Frankly I am thankful that the weather has finally turned and warmed up. Warm weather and good boating weather cannot come soon enough!

# NEW LIFE JACKET LABEL

## ADULT UNIVERSAL

User Weight: >40 kg (>88 lbs)  
Chest Size: 76-132 cm (30-52 in.)

### PERFORMANCE LEVEL

Measured in newtons.

- Lower level number offers more mobility, comfort, and style with good flotation, and intended for near shore (calm water) activities.
- Higher level number offers greater flotation, turning, and stability in the water, and for offshore activities (greater time to rescue).
- There are areas where you may be boating near shore when rescue is hours away, and a higher level is needed.
- Be honest about your swimming ability. Poor swimmers may need a higher level to stay upright and easily tread water.



NEAR SHORE (CALM)

OFFSHORE (WAVES)

INCREASING TIME TO RESCUE

### TURN ABILITY (SEE BELOW)

### WARNINGS (SEE BELOW)

### WARNINGS

Some life jackets are **NOT APPROVED** for:

- Water skiing
- Tubing
- Personal watercraft or wakeboarding
- White water paddling

### TURN ABILITY

- Life Jacket will turn an unconscious wearer face up—test before use.
- Life Jacket will not turn an unconscious wearer face up.

## June Anniversaries

Dave Anthony	2009	17 yrs
Rich Barta	2005	21 yrs
Dolores Ratajczak	2004	22 yrs
Bridget Doerner	1990	36 yrs
Rebecca Mulroy	1988	38 yrs
Natalie Witty	1988	38 yrs
Joe Paldo	1987	39 yrs
John Rucci	1986	40 yrs

Congratulations on reaching another milestone with the squadron. We appreciate your support!

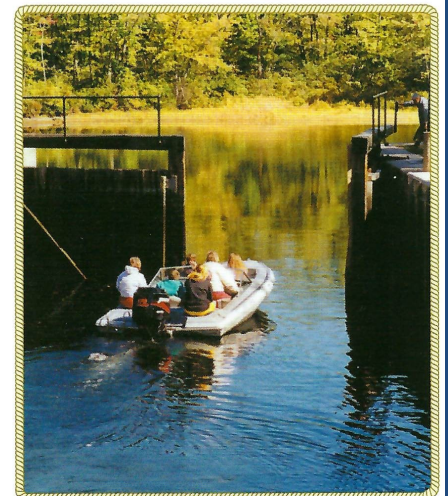
**Cdr Frank D'Amico, AP**

## National Safe Boating Week

Ron Dziagwa convinced Gaby from the Tech Hub at the McCormick YMCA in Chicago to participate in Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day 2026



### CAPTAIN AHAB'S QUIZ



**Locking Technique:** For more control and easy departure, “\_\_\_\_\_” bow and stern lines should be utilized and these lines should always be tended, not cleated (especially on the way down).

(see answer on back page)

Tom Clark, AP, Contributing Editor  
Courtesy of Perchant Publishing

# Running Lights

Skokie Valley Sail and Power Squadron

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**TO:**

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



Be sure to visit our websites:

**Skokie Valley Sail & Power Squadron:**  
[www.skokievalleypowersquadron.org](http://www.skokievalleypowersquadron.org)

**District 20:** [www.uspsd20Boating.org](http://www.uspsd20Boating.org)

**USPS:** [www.AmericasBoatingClub.org](http://www.AmericasBoatingClub.org)



Captain Ahab answer:  
slipped

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